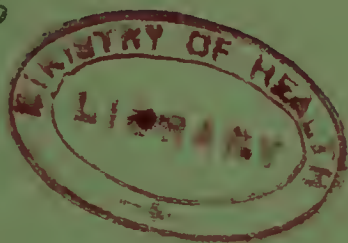


THIRSK

Rural District Council.



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR, 1938.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the year 1938. There was no particular feature of Public Health interest during the year, except the discontinuance of our Isolation Hospital and an arrangement for our infectious diseases to be accommodated at Northallerton Isolation Hospital. There were more cases of Scarlet Fever than in the year before, mostly scattered throughout the district, although in one case there was a small epidemic on the border of our district.

Public Health Staff

Clerk : part time.

Medical Officer : part time.

Matron of Isolation Hospital (now discontinued).

F. Metcalfe, C.R. SanI. M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

G. R. White, Cert S I.B., M.S.I A., Sanitary Inspector

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	72,000 (approx.)
R.G's estimate of residential population (mid. 1938)			11,930
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)			3,456
Rateable Value	...	...	£51,095
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	£225

[ONE]

In an area such as ours the question of unemployment is not an acute one as is the case in industrial areas.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Live Births—	168	98	70	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 14.08.
Legitimate	157	91	66	
Illegitimate	11	7	4	
Still Births—	7	5	2	Rate per 1,000 of all births 40.00.
Legitimate	7	5	2	
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil	
Deaths	157	80	77	Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 13.16.

Deaths from puerperal causes :

(Headings from the R.G's short list).

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis, Nil.

No. 30. Other Puerperal causes, Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	59.52
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	31.84
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	454.54
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff.

See the beginning of the Report.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities

as in previous years.

19 swabs were sent for the diagnosis of Diphtheria—16 were negative and 3 positive.

8 sputa were sent for the detection of Tuberculosis—7 were negative and 1 positive.

3 specimens of blood sent for detection of Typhoid—All negative.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

As in previous years, and satisfactory.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

As in previous years, and not under the control of the Council.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

As in previous years, under the control of the Nursing Association of the County Council.

(e) Hospitals.

The Isolation Hospital, the only Hospital under the control of the Council, was closed in the early part of the year. An agreement was made, whereby all cases of infectious disease requiring isolation are accommodated at Northallerton Isolation Hospital.

Six cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Isolation Hospital before it was closed.

SECTIONS C, D & E.

See the Sanitary Inspector's accompanying report.

SECTION F.

(2) Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases.

[THREE]

The only infectious disease prevalent during the year, was Scarlet Fever. The only part of the district where it assumed epidemic form was associated with a similar condition in the adjoining district.

After the school which was in this district was closed, the epidemic abated.

Notifiable diseases^{ep} during the year 1938.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	21	17	Nil
Diphtheria	3	3	Nil
Pneumonia	8	Nil	14*
Erysipelas	1	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyreria	1	Nil	Nil

* Of the 14 deaths reported as due to pneumonia none had been notified.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Pyreria
1-2.	—	—	2	—	—
2-3.	2	—	1	—	—
4-5.	1	—	—	—	—
5-10.	12	2	2	—	—
10-15	1	—	—	—	—
15-20	5	1	—	1	—
20-35	—	—	1	—	1
45-65	—	—	2	—	—
Total	21	3	8	1	1

(3) Cancer.

No action taken.

(4) a) Prevention of Blindness

No action taken

b) Tuberculosis
As in previous years

Age Periods	TUBERCULOSIS: New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
45-55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—

Of the deaths 3 were of persons notified in previous years and 1 of a person notified in the present year.

W. G. MacArthur

Medical Officer of Health.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and
Workplaces—including Inspections made by
Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances

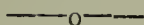
Premises	Inspections	No. of Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	6	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	2	—	—
* Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises)	4	—	—
TOTAL ...	12	0	0

* Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.

Causes of Deaths in Thirsk Rural District 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH			Males	Females
ALL CAUSES			80	77
4	Whooping Cough	...	—	1
6	Influenza	... ..	2	1
9	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	5	2
13	Cancer	... ..	8	5
14	Diabetes	... ..	—	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	8	9
16	Heart Disease	...	20	28
18	Other Circulatory Diseases		8	6
19	Bronchitis	... ..	1	4
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	9	5
24	Appendicitis	...	—	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases		—	2
28	Nephritis	... ..	3	3
31	Congenital Debility & Pre. Birth		2	2
32	Senility	... ..	2	2
33	Suicide	... ..	3	—
34	Other Violence	...	5	—
35	Other Defined Diseases	...	4	4
36	Disease ill defined or not known		—	1
			80	77

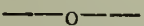
THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1938.



MR. F. METCALFE, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.,
(Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor
and Certified Meat Inspector).



MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report of the Sanitary Inspection
in the Area during the year 1938.

Mr. White, the Council's Housing Inspector, is submitting his report in the Section under Housing but to avoid duplication we have included for all works carried out under "Sanitary Inspections of the Area."

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The inspection of water supplies received much attention during the year. In all 73 samples of water were collected and submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination. 17 of these were in respect of the Council's water undertakings and the remainder of private supplies.

32 private supplies were found to be unfit for drinking purposes, and in some cases such unfit wells were cleaned out, repaired and made satisfactory, and in other new supplies were provided. Where piped water was available the persons concerned availed themselves or were required to lay on piped water in lieu of remedying unsatisfactory well water supplies.

Towards the latter part of the year the Knayton Water Supply was found, on analysis, to be unfit for drinking, the Analyst stating that there was recent pollution of an otherwise satisfactory supply as suggested by the results. The analysis had been made as precautionary measure owing to much discolouration in the water.

This matter has since been remedied by re-impounding the Spring, and so constructing the pipes supplying the service reservoir as to prevent any risk of surface water pollution.

During the period that such repair works were in progress the water in the reservoir was chlorinated twice daily, so as to ensure a safe supp'y to the consumers.

There are now 19 villages in the Area not provided with piped water supplies, some of these villages are of such small rateable value or available piped water not in reasonable proximity to allow economic water schemes being formulated at present, but a scheme is under consideration for a piped supply to another village, such supply being available as an extension from the Thirsk and District Water Company's mains. This supply was found to be necessary owing to adverse reports on the public well supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Although sewage tanks and ditches at present serve most of the villages in the area for sewage disposal, with the advent of piped water supplies and the consequent demand of sanitary accommodation comparable to the town dweller the time is not far distant for the necessity of small sewage disposal works and in many cases improved sewers.

During the Year 103 sewage tanks were cleaned out and 17 ditches cleansed so as to prevent nuisance.

The Sewer at White Mare Corner, Thirsk, was extended to include parts of York Road and Sutton Road in view of future development.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

No extension has been made to the Area for which the Council undertake the collection and disposal of house refuse and the return hereunder shows the number and kind of receptacles emptied during the year in the parishes of Thirsk and Sowerby.

The refuse (except the contents of cesspools) is collected by one motor vehicle under the direct control of the Council and is disposed of by incineration at the Council's Incinerator Plant erected in 1932. This Plant consists of a single cell, front fed type of furnace, provided with fan blast driven by a small engine.

The contents of cesspools are pumped into sludge carts and the filth disposed of on agricultural land for manurial purposes.

House refuse is also collected by contract in one village in the Area, and in other villages, tins, bottles and other incombustible refuse is collected and disposed of by tipping.

Trade refuse is collected once weekly from the shops and other premises in Thirsk and Sowerby by arrangement, a small charge being made for this service. The collected refuse is disposed of by burning where practicable.

The Council's employees also sweep up after the weekly Monday Market.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Total Inspections made during the year	...	1467
Total re-inspections	" "	830
<hr/>		
Inspections of Houses (Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	216
" Slaughterhouses,		
" Butchers' Premises, etc.	...	351
" Emergency slaughterings on farms, etc		21
" Farms and Dairy Premises		
" (Milk & Dairies Order)	...	198
" Factories, Workshops, & Workplaces		6
" Common Lodging House	...	1

Visits re Petroleum Acts	...	...	5
„ Water Supplies	...	...	58
„ New Building in course of erection	...	...	94
„ Council Houses	...	...	84
„ Moveable Dwellings	...	...	1
„ Drains, Sewers and Sewage	...	...	120
„ Scavenging	...	...	256
„ Overcrowding	...	...	38
„ Infectious Diseases	...	...	14
„ Schools	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Inspections	...	...	2

Number of premises which required Sanitary improvement (other than under Housing Acts)	...	...	73
„ Nuisances dealt with	...	...	68
„ Complaints received and dealt with	...	...	40
„ Premises disinfected	...	...	28
„ Water Samples submitted for analysis	...	...	73
„ Milk Samples	...	...	3
„ Drains tested	...	...	36
„ Schools disinfected	...	...	2

NOTICES, Etc.

(OTHER THAN HOUSING).

Informal Notices to Owners and Occupiers	...	...	85
„ „ complied with	...	...	57
Statutory Notices to Owners and Occupiers	...	...	12
„ „ complied with	...	...	8

SANITARY WORKS & IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT.

Houses.

Roofs, walls, etc., repaired	...	...	52
Rainwater spouts fixed or repaired	...	...	34

Fireplaces fixed or repaired	...	...	68
Coalhouses provided	...	...	24
Washing accommodation provided	...	...	31
Yards repaired	...	...	48
Floors repaired	...	...	88
Ventilation improved	...	...	22
New sinks fixed	...	...	73
Waste pipes trapped	...	...	1
Foodstores provided	...	...	35
Dampness remedied	...	...	30
Well water supplies discontinued	...	...	15
Water laid on	...	...	82
Wells cleaned out	...	...	1

Privies.

Converted into water closets	...	...	33
Provided with moveable receptacles	...	...	6

Ashpits.

Abolished	...	...	17
Dustbins provided	...	...	38

Water Closets.

Repaired	...	...	4
Provided	...	...	33

Drainage, etc.

Drains constructed	...	...	46
Drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	13
Drains ventilated	...	...	13
Gullies fixed	...	...	34
Inspection chambers built	...	...	14
Cesspools provided	...	...	7
Sewers relaid or repaired	...	...	9
Sewers cleansed	...	...	8
Sewage tanks provided	...	...	1
„ „ repaired	...	...	1

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Cowsheds repaired	...	...	2
Dairy outbuildings provided	...	...	3
Sheds re-constructed	...	...	10

Slaughterhouses.

Re-constructed	1
----------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Shops and Offices.

Informal action only taken in respect of sanitary conveniences.

Camping Sites.

One License issued.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

None.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action called for.

Schools.

2 schools were disinfected during the year as precautionary measures against the spread of Infectious disease. Both spray and gaseous disinfectant were used in each case.

Housing.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	202
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	760
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932				171
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	171

[TWELVE]

(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	75
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	127

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	73
--	---	-----	-----	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—			
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	11
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—			
(a)	By Owners	...	...	25
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	—
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—			
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	14
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—			
(a)	By Owners	...	...	12
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	—

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936;—			
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	6
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—			
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	—

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowd:—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the Year			
	...	...	32
(2) Number of families dwelling therein			
	...	...	32
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein			
	...	...	207
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the Year			
	...	...	1
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the Year			
	...	...	6
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases			
	...	...	40
(d) Particulars of any case in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding			
	...	...	Nil

Clearance Areas.

On 25th June, 1938, the Ministry of Health confirmed 9 Clearance Orders.

Piggott's Yard (Norby) Clearance Order, 1937	14 houses
Waterside No. 1 Clearance Order, 1937	3 „
Waterside No. 2 Clearance Order, 1937	2 „
Wayne's Yard (Market Place) Clearance Order, 1937	3 „
Sowerby No. 3 Clearance Order, 1937	3 „
Wootton's Yard (Thirsk) Clearance Order, 1937	5 „
Arch Row, Stammergeate, Thirsk, Clearance Order, 1937	4 „
South Kilvington Clearance Order, 1937	4 „
Norby No. 4 Clearance Order, 1937	4 „

On 21st October, 1938, the Council passed resolutions in respect of 9 Clearance Areas to be treated by way of Clearance Orders, a Public Local Inquiry was held in April 1939.

Jaques' Yard (Kirkgate) Clearance Area	4 houses
Gilling's Yard (Market Place) Clearance Area	3 „
Royal Hotel Yard (Market Place) Clearance Area	5 „
Barnett's Yard (Market Place) Clearance Area	2 „
Lee's Yard (Thirsk) Clearance Area	3 „
Front Street (Sowerby) Clearance Area	2 „
Silver Street (Sowerby) Clearance Area	4 „
Dean's Square (Topcliffe) Clearance Area	6 „
Pickhill No. 2 Clearance Area	3 „

Individual Houses.

Under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, during 1938 46 houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation, and not capable, at a reasonable expense, of being rendered so fit.

New Buildings.

Number of Council Houses built during 1938 (Langthorpe and Ainderby Quernhow)	22
Number of houses built by private enterprise	17
Number of premises re-conditioned and provided with improved accommodation (plans submitted):	
(a) Public houses	2
(b) Dwelling houses	11
Two of the dwelling houses were re-conditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.	

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

During the year 19 persons were registered under the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926, namely:

- 14 as Wholesalers and Producers of Milk
- 2 as Retailers and Producers of Milk and Butter
- 1 as Retailer and Producer of Milk
- 1 as Retailer of Milk, but not producer
- 1 as Retailer of Cream, but not producer.

198 farms and dairy premises were visited during the Year and infringements under the Milk and Dairies Order dealt with by informal action.

10 cowsheds were re-constructed and made satisfactory for the production and sale of milk, 2 cowsheds repaired also 3 outbuildings were provided as can and cooling houses.

3 milk samples were submitted for bacteriological examination—these were collected from the morning's milkings at dairy farms where ungraded milk was produced.

Each of the samples conformed to the prescribed standards for clean raw milk.

There is no pasteurized milk sold or produced in the district.

No complaint has been made as to the wholesomeness of the milk or butter produced or sold in the area.

No action was necessary under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

Meat and Other Foods.

337 inspections of slaughterhouses, shops, etc., have been made during the Year under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations and the Council's Byelaws, also 21 visits to farms and other premises to inspect "emergency" slaughtered animals. One of these, a heifer carcase, was suspected Anthrax, which I reported to the Police and the County Veterinary Officer in accordance with the Diseases of Animals Acts.

There are 19 slaughterhouses, 9 being in Thirsk and 10 in the district. There is no Public slaughterhouse.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle ex-cluding Cows.	Cows	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs
Number inspected	1561	30	15	262	998
<hr/>					
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	2	2	—	3	—
<hr/>					
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	4	—	—	1	23
<hr/>					
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	.38%	6.66%	—	1 52%	2.30%
<hr/>					
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	2	—	1	—	—
<hr/>					
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	2	2	—	—	26
<hr/>					
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2 56%	6.66%	—	—	2.80%
<hr/>					

Other Foods.

Foods other than meat have been kept under supervision as far as possible, visits being made to Fish Frying Premises, Bakelhouses, Market Stalls, etc., also of vehicles hawking fish and other foods for sale in the various villages.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

[EIGHTEEN]



